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Second report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 6 of resolution 2169 (2014)

I. Introduction

1. In paragraph 6 of its resolution 2169 (2014), the Security Council requested me to report every three months on progress made towards fulfilling the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI). The present report covers key developments related to Iraq, and provides an update on the activities of the United Nations in Iraq since the issuance of my first report dated 31 October 2014 (S/2014/774).

II. Summary of key political development pertaining to Iraq

A. Internal developments

2. Since my previous report, the Government of Iraq has made significant preliminary progress in promoting national reconciliation by securing the support of various Iraqi components to counter the threat by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and liberating areas under its control. The improvement of relations between the federal Government and the Kurdistan Regional Government, particularly after the conclusion of a landmark agreement on energy exports and revenue-sharing, marks a key achievement towards national reconciliation. The Government of Iraq also moved forward with the implementation of its ministerial programme, including through the adoption of measures for the reform of the security sector and for institutional reform, and by engaging countries in the region in efforts to promote stability in Iraq.

3. Regional and international partners continued to enhance their support for the efforts of the Government of Iraq in its fight against ISIL. However, ISIL and associated armed groups remained in control of large swathes of territory in the west and north of the country, where they continue to inflict civilian casualties, cause massive displacement and perpetrate systematic human rights violations that may amount to war crimes or crimes against humanity.

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B. Political situation

4. Since my previous report, the Government of Iraq has continued to take steps to advance its reform agenda across the political, security and economic spectrum. In particular, Iraq's political leadership continued to focus on consolidating support for the fight against ISIL and strengthening security cooperation. To augment the capabilities of the Iraqi security forces, the Government of Iraq continued to deploy popular mobilization force volunteers and steadily gained the support of tribal fighters to join military operations in areas under ISIL control in Anbar, Ninewa, Diyala, Kirkuk and Salah al-Din governorates. On 6 November, the Anbar Provincial Council announced the formation of a coalition of some 40 tribes to fight ISIL in Anbar. On 6 November, 2,000 volunteer fighters from the peace brigades (formerly known as the Mahdi Army) deployed alongside the Iraqi security forces and the Anbar tribes in the ongoing military operations to liberate the town of Hit, Anbar governorate, from ISIL control. Security cooperation amongst Sunni tribes also strengthened as they joined forces in Anbar, Salah al-Din and Diyala to protect their communities from ISIL.

5. As discussed in the Council of Ministers on 6 November, the Government of Iraq has pledged to provide military and financial assistance to local leaders and tribal fighters to aid their fight against ISIL. On 11 November, the Speaker of the Council of Representatives, Salim al-Jabouri, announced the Government's plan to receive, arm and train local tribal and volunteer fighters at the Ein al-Assad base. On 10 December, the Salah al-Din Provincial Council announced the decision by the Government of Iraq to disburse 25 billion Iraqi dinars to the governorate and to grant the Provincial Police the authorization to arm tribes, including in Tikrit. However, several tribes in Iraq remain concerned about the pace of the Government's response to their needs for financing and arms.

6. During the reporting period, the Government of Iraq has also taken measures to initiate security sector reform. As part of ongoing efforts to professionalize Iraq's military and security institutions, Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi issued an executive order on 12 November retiring a number of senior army officers while transferring others to new posts. On 28 November, the Minister of the Interior, Mohammed al-Ghabban, announced that responsibility for security in Baghdad would be transferred from the army to the police so that army personnel could be redeployed to reinforce the armed forces in Iraq's western and north-western governorates. On 30 November, al-Abadi informed the Council of Representatives that some 50,000 non-serving Iraqi army soldiers would be removed from the payroll as part of ongoing efforts to counter corruption.

7. Reports of sectarian attacks perpetrated by militia groups allied with the Iraqi security forces continued to challenge the Government's efforts to strengthen the rule of law. On 10 November, a delegation from Diyala briefed the Prime Minister on ongoing apparent sectarian attacks in the governorate. The Prime Minister reiterated that he had given strict orders to the Iraqi security forces to deal firmly with armed groups committing violations, including abductions. On 26 November, the Speaker of the Council of Representatives issued a statement condemning sectarian attacks by militias in the liberated areas of Sa'adiya and Jalawla in Diyala governorate, saying that they were jeopardizing national reconciliation efforts. On 1 December, the Minister of Defence, Khalid al-Ubaidi, visited Diyala, where he called on the Iraqi security forces to act with neutrality and respect for human

rights. On 3 December, at the international conference on counter-terrorism held in Brussels, Prime Minister al-Abadi affirmed Iraq's constitutional commitment to prohibiting armed groups and militias from operating outside the control of the Iraqi security forces.

8. On 27 January, the Council of Ministers approved, in principle, the formation of a national guard and established a committee chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister, Bahaa al-Araji, to finalize relevant legislation. Diverging views among political blocs, including over its composition and its command and control structure, had delayed finalization of a draft law.

9. Since the date of the submission of my last report, the Government of Iraq has taken measures to strengthen due process and the rule of law. On 1 December, the Prime Minister issued an executive order prohibiting arbitrary arrest and detention in Iraq, mandating the electronic registration of detainees, accelerating the release of detainees already ordered by the courts and criminalizing unlawful imprisonment, abductions and attacks against civilians, in line with the Constitution. On 17 December, the Minister of the Interior informed my Special Representative that steps are being taken to electronically register the names of detainees and their place of detention, and confirmed that manual registration is the method currently being used for this purpose. On 8 January, the Federal Judiciary announced that 10,384 detainees found not guilty had been released from custody. On 25 January 2015, the Federal Judicial Authority announced that 7,862 detainees, including 1,291 individuals indicted on terrorism charges, had been released during the month of January alone.

10. Iraq's political leadership remained committed to furthering national reconciliation and promoting inclusive governance. Following a meeting between Prime Minister al-Abadi, Speaker al-Jabouri and President Fuad Masum on 3 December, Vice-President Ayad Allawi was formally assigned to lead national reconciliation efforts. In a letter addressed to me on 23 November, Vice-President Allawi outlined his road map for national reconciliation, which envisages building public trust in the State through legislative reform, strengthening of the rule of law, prohibiting the activities of armed groups outside the control of the State, compensating persons affected by military operations and terrorism, reconstructing damaged areas and returning displaced persons to their homes. Furthermore, on 16 December, President Masum outlined the following three key elements for furthering national reconciliation to my Special Representative: countering sectarianism through intensive political dialogue; expediting legislative reform; and granting amnesty. Discussions continued between stakeholders on legal frameworks to amend the Justice and Accountability Act and to grant amnesty.

11. The reporting period witnessed a new era of political compromise and strengthened partnership between Baghdad and Erbil. The initial breakthrough came on 13 November, when Baghdad and Erbil reached an interim deal under which the federal Government agreed to the transfer of $500 million to the Kurdistan Regional Government for the outstanding payment of civil servants' salaries. In turn, Erbil committed to transfer 150,000 barrels of oil per day through the national State Oil Marketing Organization, thus resuming its contribution to the federal budget.

12. The interim deal was followed by intensive negotiations that led to a further ground-breaking agreement between Baghdad and Erbil on 2 December, covering energy exports, revenue-sharing and the federal bankrolling of Peshmerga salaries.

Under the agreement, the Kurdistan Regional Government will export 250,000 barrels of oil per day and help the federal Government export 300,000 barrels per day from Kirkuk through the State Oil Marketing Organization using the pipeline controlled by the Kurdistan Regional Government. In return, Baghdad will resume the disbursement to the Kurdistan Regional Government of a 17 per cent allocation of the federal budget. Baghdad also agreed to allocate $1.2 billion per annum to the Peshmerga. The agreement took effect as of 1 January 2015 and joint committees will be formed to monitor its implementation. By the end of 2014, two transfers from the federal Government of $500 million had been made to the Kurdistan Regional Government. On 3 January, the Minister of Oil, Adel Abdul Mehdi, announced that oil production had commenced in Kirkuk, totalling 175,000 barrels per day. Both sides also agreed to prepare a timetable for future negotiations on the implementation of article 140 of the Constitution, related to Iraq's disputed internal boundaries.

13. Security cooperation between Baghdad and Erbil was also strengthened during the reporting period. On 3 November, President Masum and Minister of Defence al-Ubaidi visited Erbil, where they met the Prime Minister of the Kurdistan Regional Government, Nechirvan Barzani, and the Minister of Peshmerga Affairs, Mustafa Said Qadir, to discuss bilateral security cooperation. During the meeting it was agreed that the federal Government would provide the Peshmerga with heavy weaponry. On 7 January, the federal Government and the Kurdistan Regional Government held a joint ministerial security meeting in Baghdad aimed at strengthening security cooperation, boosting intelligence-sharing and raising levels of expertise.

14. On 29 January, the Council of Representatives approved the 2015 federal budget bill. The estimated $108 billion budget, with an anticipated deficit of $22 billion, is based on projected revenues of $56 per barrel of oil and on estimates that Iraq will export an average of 3.3 million barrels per day throughout 2015. Oil revenues represent approximately 84 per cent of the total budget. Approximately 25 per cent of the entire budget is allocated to defence and security.

15. During the reporting period, the budget deficit constrained the Government's ability to pay outstanding budgetary allocations to the governorates, with Muthanna, Basra and Ninewa among those having to halt the payment of public servants' salaries. On 9 December, the Council of Ministers instructed the Minister of Finance to release the outstanding amount of petrodollars owed to Basra, at the rate of $2 a barrel of oil, compared to $5 promised by the previous Government, and to provide an advance payment of $1 million to Ninewa to cover its debts and meet its immediate operational expenses. Muthanna governorate, however, declared bankruptcy on 9 December.

16. In November, Members of the Parliament in Basra announced the distribution of a petition to transform Basra into an administrative region. Several demonstrations took place in Basra during November and December in support of that initiative. On 29 December, Prime Minister al-Abadi participated in a meeting of the Supreme Committee for provincial coordination in Basra, where he reiterated his Government's commitment to decentralization. On 30 December, the Council of Ministers withdrew its complaint to the Federal Court, lodged on 7 January 2014, challenging the validity of Law No. 21 of 2008, the law of governorates not

incorporated into a region, as amended by Law No. 19 of 2013, paving the way for the devolution of more authority to local government.

C. Security

17. During the reporting period the security situation in Iraq remained volatile, with fighting continuing between ISIL and associated armed groups on the one hand and Iraqi security forces, Peshmerga and allied tribal and volunteer fighters on the other. Conflict and armed violence was largely concentrated in areas under ISIL control in Anbar, Ninewa, Diyala and Salah al-Din governorates. ISIL continued to control large swathes of territory in Iraq but made no further significant territorial gains. Iraq's armed forces, aided by allied tribal and volunteer fighters, made limited but steady progress against ISIL, recapturing areas in Diyala, Salah al-Din and Ninewa.

18. During the reporting period, there were an increased number of international coalition airstrikes against ISIL positions around Mosul City and surrounding districts, the Sinjar Mountains, the south of Kirkuk city, around the Baiji oil refinery, Tikrit and the north-east of Diyala governorate. Coalition airstrikes also targeted ISIL-held areas across Anbar governorate and along Iraq's border with the Syrian Arab Republic.

19. Iraq's armed forces launched successful military operations, aided by the volunteer fighters who form the popular mobilization forces, to retake areas in Diyala. On 20 November, the Iraqi security forces liberated Sa'adiya district, north-east of Diyala, while on 23 November, Peshmerga forces liberated Jalawla, along Iraq's border with the Islamic Republic of Iran, and on 25 January, recaptured Muqdadiyah and surrounding villages from ISIL control. The security situation in the north-central region remains highly volatile, with armed clashes near Baqubah in Diyala governorate.

20. In Salah al-Din, the Iraqi and Peshmerga forces, tribal fighters and the popular mobilization forces launched joint military operations to regain ground taken by ISIL. On 27 December, the Iraqi security forces, aided by volunteer fighters, liberated the village of Yathrib and broke ISIL's siege on the town of Dhuluiyah, located 40 kilometres south of Samarra. Activity around Baiji city and its nearby refinery remained fluid. Iraqi security forces launched ground operations in Baiji in November to expel ISIL elements from around the area, but had limited success. Although the Iraqi security forces control access to the town of Baiji and the refinery, ISIL continues to maintain a presence outside these immediate areas. The city of Samarra remained under Government control with areas along the Samarra and Tirkit highway still contested.

21. In Ninewa, the Peshmerga re-established their presence in strategic areas between Mosul City and Iraq's border with the Syrian Arab Republic, including Zummar town and the adjacent oilfield, a key facility captured by ISIL in July. On 17 December, Peshmerga forces, aided by popular mobilization force volunteers, launched a major ground offensive in the foothill areas of Sinjar Mountain, reportedly regaining territory from ISIL. The ongoing push by Peshmerga forces enabled the opening of safe corridors for the affected population to flee the conflict areas.

22. In Anbar governorate, no territorial gains were made by either side during the reporting period. The central cities of Ramadi, Karma and Haditha remained under Government control, while the majority of areas in the governorate remained either contested, under siege or in the control of ISIL. The security situation in Anbar was highly fluid, with widespread clashes in several areas. Prolonged armed clashes were reported in towns north-west of Ramadi throughout November. Ramadi city itself was the target of three concerted ISIL attacks in November, during which it seized a number of government offices. Major intersections and important roads leading out of Ramadi that were taken over by ISIL during the November attacks remain contested. Clashes and artillery bombardments continue around Ramadi and Fallujah.

23. During the reporting period, Baghdad continued to be afflicted by acts of terrorism, such as targeted killings and kidnappings, intersectarian violence and the use of improvised explosive devices, vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices and suicide bombers targeted at civilians. The deadliest incident occurred in Sadr City on 4 December, when 21 civilians were killed and 69 were wounded in two vehicle-borne improvised explosive attacks.

24. During the reporting period, ISIL continued to seize military hardware and equipment from the Iraqi security forces following attacks on their convoys. In addition, it was reported that three vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices were employed in suicide attacks against the Iraqi security forces, using armoured vehicles captured from Iraqi security forces. This is of concern to the United Nations after the claim of the Al Nusra Front that it used a stolen United Nations armoured vehicle in a suicide bombing attack on a Syrian army position on 7 December in Dara'a province.

D. Regional and international developments

25. The Government of Iraq continued to pursue its policy of improving bilateral relations, especially with its neighbours, aimed at obtaining political, security, humanitarian, economic and reconstruction support to address the impact of ISIL. The international community expanded its support to Iraq, with additional States providing assistance to both the federal Government and the Kurdistan Regional Government.

26. These issues were at the centre of the discussions held between senior-level Iraqi delegations and their regional counterparts during official visits to Bahrain, Egypt, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates. During the reporting period, senior officials from countries in the region, including Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates, visited Baghdad to reaffirm their support for Iraq. The announcements by Qatar and Saudi Arabia that they will re-establish their diplomatic presence in the country, after a long absence, are among some of the indicators that Iraq's bilateral relations with its neighbours are strengthening.

27. As part of its efforts to stem the threat of ISIL, the Kurdistan Regional Government deployed around 150 Peshmerga fighters on 1 November to the northern Syrian city of Kobani/Ayn al-Arab. On 1 December, 150 Peshmerga fighters were deployed to replace the first contingent.

28. Both the Government of Iraq and the Kurdistan Regional Government continue to welcome the assistance of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Iranian efforts come amidst growing bilateral cooperation, with the Islamic Republic of Iran expressing a vested interest in advancing the stability, unity and integrity of Iraq.

29. On 9 December, at the meeting of its Supreme Council, the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) issued its Doha declaration, in which, among other things, it welcomed the Iraqi Government's "new direction" and called on Baghdad to forge a national partnership among all of Iraq's communities. The Council also reiterated its support for the implementation of Security Council resolution 2170 (2014).

30. At the international level, the anti-ISIL coalition held a ministerial-level meeting in Brussels on 3 December, at which the representatives of some 60 countries outlined their current and prospective efforts to help the Government of Iraq to eliminate the threat of ISIL. Participants expressed their commitment to implement Security Council resolutions 2170 (2014) and 2178 (2014), as well as other relevant decisions. They welcomed the participation of the Iraqi delegation, which was headed by Prime Minister al-Abadi, and expressed appreciation for the inclusive policies pursued by the Government of Iraq. They also stressed the need for an organized international response to support United Nations agencies, the Government of Iraq and the Kurdistan Regional Government in their efforts to manage the crisis. On 22 January, the anti-ISIL coalition met in London. Co-chaired by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Secretary of State of the United States of America, the meeting was attended by Prime Minister al-Abadi and representatives of 18 other Member States, as well as the High Representative of the European Union, Federica Mogherini. Participants affirmed the need to support the Government of Iraq and to improve joint efforts to counter foreign fighters, financing and propaganda.

31. On 18 December, the Governing Council of the United Nations Compensation Commission (UNCC) held a special session to consider a request from the Government of Iraq to defer payment of the remaining $4.6 billion in reparations that are owed to the Government of Kuwait under Security Council resolution 1956 (2010). The members of the Governing Council expressed solidarity with Iraq in the face of the current challenges and decided to support the request of the Government by postponing Iraq's obligation to deposit 5 per cent of its oil proceeds into the Compensation Fund until January 2016. They also welcomed Kuwait's support for Iraq's request.

III. Update on the activities of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq and the United Nations country team

A. Political activities

32. Following the formation of an inclusive Government in Iraq led by Prime Minister al-Abadi, my Special Representative has worked in close partnership with Iraq's political leadership in the implementation of the ministerial programme, essential to making progress on security and returning Iraq to the path of reconciliation and stability. My Special Representative advocated, and provided advice to key stakeholders on, furthering national reconciliation, strengthening the

rule of law through security sector and legislative reform and institution-building. My Special Representative held regular meetings with President Masum, Prime Minister al-Abadi, Speaker al-Jabouri and Foreign Minister al-Jaafari. He also met the heads of political blocs, tribal leaders and local government officials from the conflict-affected governorates of Salah al-Din, Ninewa and Anbar.

33. My Special Representative engaged key political actors in Iraq to facilitate the establishment of a national guard force to augment the strength of the Iraqi security forces, a principal tenet of the ministerial programme. He and other UNAMI officials met regularly with Iraq's senior security leadership to discuss the nature, structure and legal framework for such a national guard. In Erbil, my Special Representative met the Prime Minister of the Kurdistan Regional Government and the Minister of the Interior, Kerim Sinjari, while my Deputy Special Representative for Political Affairs met with the Speaker of the Kurdistan Parliament, Yusuf Mohammed Sadiq, and the Minister of Peshmerga Affairs to discuss the possible role of the Peshmerga in such a force.

34. UNAMI also engaged interlocutors in support of national reconciliation efforts undertaken by Iraq's political leadership. My Special Representative met with Vice-President Allawi, and the Prime Minister's adviser on national reconciliation, Mohammed Salman. My Deputy Special Representative received a delegation from the Peace Council for Tolerance and Good Governance, recently established by religious scholars, civil society activists and former Council of Representative members, to discuss expectations of various Iraqi communities on this issue. On 26 and 27 November, UNAMI convened a round-table meeting on social cohesion, with the participation of prominent Iraqi political, religious and civil society representatives, who discussed the causes of social division, as well as measures to unite Iraqis. The outcome was a set of recommendations which were presented to the Government for consideration on 15 December.

35. My Special Representative and my Deputy Special Representative also engaged Iraqi interlocutors on support for legislative reform. Options prepared by UNAMI on amnesty and criminal justice system reforms were shared with the Prime Minister, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Deputy Prime Minister, the Minister of Justice and the Minister of Human Rights. My Special Representative also provided follow-up information to relevant stakeholders on the implementation of the Prime Minister's executive order of 1 December prohibiting violations of civil and political rights.

36. My Special Representative used his good offices to facilitate agreements between Baghdad and Erbil on energy exports, revenue-sharing and funding of the Peshmerga. On 18 December, he travelled to Erbil to urge the Prime Minister of the Kurdistan Regional Government to build on the 2 December agreement and to work on resolving longstanding issues with Baghdad.

37. My Special Representative actively engaged Iraq's neighbours and the wider international community to strengthen support and cooperation for the Government of Iraq in its fight against ISIL, as well as for humanitarian, reconstruction and recovery efforts. He undertook official visits to Egypt, Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and the United States of America. My Special Representative also paid an official visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran, where he met with senior Iranian officials and clerics, including the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mohammad Jawad Zarif, the Chair of the Expediency Council, Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, and

the Senior Adviser on International Affairs, Ali Akbar Velayati, and others. The Iranian interlocutors noted that Tehran was planning to further expand its cooperation with Baghdad, and was committed to respecting Iraq's sovereignty and to working with the United Nations.

38. On 3 December, my Special Representative attended the ministerial-level meeting in Brussels of the international coalition to counter ISIL, where he provided a briefing on the latest developments in Iraq, as well as on the response and assistance of the United Nations. On 8 and 9 December, he attended, on my behalf, the meeting of the Supreme Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council in Doha. On 22 January, my Special Representative attended the anti-ISIL coalition meeting in London, where he affirmed the need for a political solution to the crisis in Iraq and highlighted the need to support the efforts of the Government of Iraq to implement reforms, strengthen national unity and promote national coexistence. He also announced the United Nations partnership with Iraq in the establishment of a joint reconstruction and rehabilitation trust fund for areas liberated from ISIL.

39. During the reporting period, representatives of UNAMI made further efforts to promote agreement from international partners that they would provide aid to the Government of Iraq at this time of financial strain. During his visit to Kuwait from 23 to 25 November, my Special Representative facilitated discussions on request of the Government of Iraq that it be allowed to defer its compensation payments to Kuwait. He met with the Prime Minister, Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, and the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Sabah Al Khalid Al Sabah. On 4 December, he provided an informal briefing to members of the United Nations Compensation Commission in Geneva, and held further discussions with senior Iraqi and Kuwaiti officials.

40. UNAMI continued to actively advocate women's rights. On 25 November, my Deputy Special Representative addressed the campaign "16 days of activism against violence against women", which was attended by Iraqi Government officials and civil society organizations.

41. On 2 November, the Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Irina Bokova, visited Iraq and held discussions with Iraqi interlocutors on the protection of the national cultural heritage from the threat of ISIL. On 3 December, my Special Representative attended the UNESCO conference in Paris on cultural heritage at-risk in Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic, at which he delivered a speech on the threat posed by ISIL to Iraq's cultural heritage and identity, and outlined United Nations assistance to the Government of Iraq to counter this threat.

B. Electoral assistance

42. During the reporting period, UNAMI's Electoral Assistance Office continued to engage and support the Independent High Electoral Commission and committees in the Council of Representatives and the Council of Ministers in their ongoing review of the national electoral framework. Upon the invitation of the legal committee of the Council of Representatives, representatives of UNAMI participated in committee meetings to review the law on the elections of provincial, district and sub-district councils (Law No. 36 of 2008). The five meetings held so far have focused on the legal framework for electoral campaigns and campaign

financing, electoral procedures in Kirkuk, and the provisions on seat allocation. On 30 November, at a workshop organized by the Office of the Speaker, UNAMI presented a paper on the work of independent commissions and their relationship with the executive and legislative branches of Government.

43. UNAMI also monitored developments following the enactment of the draft law on the Kurdistan Independent High Electoral Commission on 23 July, establishing an electoral management body in the Kurdistan Region. On 3 December, the Kurdistan Regional Parliament confirmed the composition of the Commission, voting in nine Commissioners, including one female and two members of the Christian and Turkmen communities. In a meeting with UNAMI on 3 December, the chair of the Commission's interim selection committee stated that United Nations assistance to the Commission would be vital. UNAMI underscored the need for dialogue between the national and regional commissions and expressed its readiness to provide guidance on how to ensure effective coordination between the two bodies.

44. The Independent High Electoral Commission resumed the biometric voter registration process that now covers 11 out of 19 governorate electoral offices, including Najaf, Missan, Basra, Qaddisiya, Thi-Qar, Muthanna, Baghdad Rusafa, Baghdad Karkh, Karbala, Babylon and Wassit. Reports indicate an increasing rate of voter participation, with a total number of 188,228 voters registered as of 7 December 2014. Of these, 39 per cent are female (73,969) while 61 per cent are male (114,257). However, there is as yet no indication on when the biometric voter registration exercise will start in the remaining eight governorates, including the conflict-affected areas of Diyala, Kirkuk, Salah al-Din, Ninewa and Anbar, as well as the governorates of Erbil, Dohuk and Sulaymaniya in the Kurdistan Region.

C. Developments in the area of human rights in Iraq and related activities

45. UNAMI continues to monitor the situation of civilians in relation to the ongoing armed conflict and terrorism. Since my last report, as of 20 January, 2,026 civilians have been killed and 3,745 have been wounded in incidents of armed violence and terrorism. From 1 January to 31 December 2014, UNAMI recorded a total number of 35,408 civilian casualties (12,282 killed and 23,126 injured). The number of civilian casualties (including police) in 2014 is the worst experienced in Iraq since the violence of 2006-2007. I note that the special investigation team from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), which is mandated by the Human Rights Council to collect evidence relating to violations of international law by ISIL and associated armed groups, arrived in Iraq in December. The special investigation team is expected to report to the Council in March 2015.

46. UNAMI continued to receive reports of systematic and widespread violations of international law perpetrated by ISIL, including attacks deliberately targeting civilians and civilian infrastructure, executions and other targeted killings of civilians, abductions, rape and other forms of sexual and physical violence perpetrated against women and children, the destruction or desecration of places of religious or cultural significance, forced recruitment of children, wanton destruction and looting of property and denial of basic rights and freedoms. Particularly

affected were the diverse ethnic and religious communities of Iraq, including the Turkmen, Shabak, Christian, Yezidi, Sabaean, Kaka'e, Faili Kurd and Shiite Arab communities and Sunni tribes aligned or suspected to be aligned with the Government of Iraq, which ISIL and associated armed groups intentionally and systematically targeted for serious human rights violations.

47. Violations of women's rights by ISIL continue to be of grave concern. Thousands of women and children remain in captivity by ISIL. Women who escaped have confirmed in interviews with UNAMI that many had been subjected to sexual and physical violence, trafficked as slaves, been forcibly wed to ISIL fighters and used as human shields. ISIL also attacked and killed female community and political leaders. On 23 November, ISIL executed two women in Mosul who had stood in parliamentary elections.

48. ISIL continues to subject civilians living in areas under its control to grave violations of their basic human rights. UNAMI has recorded at least 165 executions during the reporting period that have been carried out following sentences passed by "courts" established by ISIL in the areas under their control. Mass graves, containing hundreds of victims of ISIL, have been discovered in a number of locations, including in the subdistrict of Jalawla and Kobashi, in Diyala governorate and in Qayyarah south of Mosul on 3 December, and in Athba and Hlayla villages south of Mosul on 7 December.

49. ISIL continued to target persons and groups suspected of being allied with the Government of Iraq or opposed to their ideology. On 30 November, ISIL executed three elders of the al-Jbouri tribe outside the Ninewa Governorate Office in Mosul based on accusations they were supporting the Government of Iraq. On 2 November, ISIL attacked the al-Jbouri tribe in al-Alam subdistrict, north of Tikrit, and seized around 250 male members of the tribe. ISIL then began systematically destroying civilian homes with improvised explosive devices. In November, ISIL conducted a series of mass killings of members of the Albu Nimr tribe in Anbar governorate. UNAMI sources suggest the number could exceed 400, including children and women. Reportedly more than 200 bodies were found in mass graves in Ramadi and Hit areas in early November. On 13 November, ISIL reportedly attacked members of the Albu Nimr tribe near Lake Tharthar, abducting and subsequently executing 16 of them.

50. ISIL continues to destroy sites of religious or cultural significance in areas under its control. On 24 November, ISIL destroyed a Christian monastery in Mosul. On 25 November, ISIL destroyed the Sheikh Isma'il Sunni shrine in the village of Shbecha in the Daquq area of Kirkuk governorate.

51. UNAMI continued to receive reports of failures of the Iraqi security forces and affiliated armed groups to fully respect international humanitarian law and international human rights law. These include failures to abide by the principles of distinction and proportionality required by international humanitarian law in the conduct of military operations, particularly shelling. Despite the fact that ISIL and associated armed groups are known to deliberately base themselves in civilian areas to shield themselves from attack or to cause civilian casualties, the Iraqi security forces have failed, on some occasions, to ensure that civilian casualties are absolutely minimized when they are carrying out military operations. Reports of civilians killed by airstrikes continued; but it is not possible to provide a full report on the numbers of those killed in areas controlled by ISIL.

52. UNAMI continued to receive reports that some armed groups and militias are operating outside the law, perpetrating targeted killings, including of captured ISIL fighters and associated armed groups, the abduction of civilians and other abuses. On 11 November, members of an armed militia reportedly raided the Grathool area of the Yathrib subdistrict, abducting 93 males of the Grathool tribe and burning homes. Fourteen bodies (including three children), bearing gunshot wounds to the head and chest, were later discovered in a small trench near the village. According to sources, 46 persons were released after a few days, during which time they had been subjected to ill-treatment. The fate of the remaining 33 missing abductees remains unknown. UNAMI also received a high number of reports of abductions, purportedly carried out by militias in Diyala governorate. While some were freed following the payment of a ransom, others were killed. In some cases, victims were killed despite the payment of a ransom. Members of the Sunni community have also been targeted for abduction in Basra and other areas in the south of the country.

53. UNAMI continued to receive reports of unidentified bodies in Baghdad, Salah al-Din, Ninewa, Kirkuk, Diyala, Basra and Babil governorates, most bearing gunshot wounds to the head and chest. It has not been possible to identify the perpetrators of these crimes.

54. The ongoing armed conflict and acts of terrorism continued to detrimentally affect children in Iraq. The Task Force on Children and Armed Conflict, co-chaired by UNAMI and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), documented 99 incidents of violence against children during the reporting period. Acts of terrorism and armed conflict, particularly crossfire, indiscriminate shelling and the use of improvised explosive devices, claimed at least 94 child casualties (33 killed and 61 injured) from November to December 2014, and it is important to remember that many cases of child casualties may go unreported. In addition, there was a marked increase in the number of reports of child recruitment by ISIL in all areas under its control and by pro-Government militias in all conflict-affected areas as well as in Baghdad and Basra.

D. Camp Hurriya

55. During the reporting period, my Special Adviser for the Relocation of Camp Hurriya Residents Outside of Iraq continued to lead United Nations efforts to identify suitable solutions for the relocation of Camp Hurriya residents outside the country. Ms. Holl Lute is in close contact on a regular basis with all relevant stakeholders, including the residents of Camp Hurriya. On 23 and 24 November, Ms. Holl Lute visited Baghdad, where she held meetings with Iraqi Government officials and members of the diplomatic community to discuss the status of residents and suitable solutions for their relocation outside Iraq.

56. UNAMI continues to monitor the human rights and humanitarian situation of the residents of Camp Hurriya and to facilitate solutions to camp management issues between the Government of Iraq and representatives of the residents. At the time of publication of the present report, 632 Camp Hurriya residents had been relocated to third countries. 2,491 individuals remained in Iraq — 2,480 residents were in Camp Hurriya and 11 individuals (defectors) were accommodated in Baghdad (at the Muhajer Hotel).

57. The United Nations continues to seek durable solutions for the Camp residents through relocation and through consular and humanitarian channels. As at 21 December, 632 individuals had been relocated outside Iraq, of which 30 left for Albania through an independent channel, 123 had been relocated through consular readmission to nine countries (Belgium, Denmark, Italy, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom and Norway), 448 had been relocated through humanitarian admission to four countries (Albania, Italy, Norway and the United States of America) and 32 had been relocated through relocation channels to five countries, namely Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom. A group of 233 individuals departed to Albania under the humanitarian stream organized by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in November. In addition to these cases, one individual from the safe accommodation and four individuals from the temporary transit location have been accepted by four countries and are awaiting departure from Iraq and 1,248 submissions remain pending with 18 countries through the humanitarian, relocation and consular streams.

E. Humanitarian assistance, reconstruction and development

58. The armed conflict continued to exacerbate the humanitarian situation during the reporting period, with over 2 million persons internally displaced since the beginning of 2014. An estimated 946,266 internally displaced persons are residing in the Kurdistan Region, while an estimated 904,170 are in the central belt of Iraq and an estimated 153,630 are in the southern governorates: 800,000 people are hosting the displaced. In addition, 2.2 million individuals are currently located in areas controlled by ISIL, and their security and access to humanitarian assistance remains of primary concern. The population affected by the crisis now totals 5 million individuals.

59. On 17 December 2014, my Deputy Special Representative and Humanitarian Coordinator for Iraq and the Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister and Chair of the High Committee on internally displaced persons, Saleh al-Mutlaq, inaugurated the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Centre. The Centre will strengthen coordination within the Government, and between the Government and the United Nations and its partners, as well as monitor the effectiveness of the response.

60. The United Nations is in urgent need of funding to help meet the needs of the displaced. On 14 December, the Government of Iraq, supported by the United Nations, held a donor meeting seeking additional financial support from donors. On 18 December, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs approved the allocation of nearly $15 million from the Central Emergency Response Fund to address the most urgent needs of the up to 200,000 people who have been displaced in northern and central Iraq since September. To date, approximately $715 million has been provided in response to the 2014-2015 Iraq strategic response plan, leaving a shortfall of approximately $1.5 billion needed to cover needs over the next 15 months.

61. The United Nations continues to scale up its humanitarian response to contend with the large number of displaced. During the reporting period, the World Food Programme (WFP) distributed 13,539 metric tons of food commodities, assisting 953,442 individuals. WFP also rolled out food voucher assistance programmes in

the Kurdistan Region, providing 140,256 people with monthly vouchers valued at $26 each to spend in local shops. In addition, 20,000 people have benefited from a rapid response mechanism launched by WFP in October in partnership with UNICEF and non-governmental organizations to pre-position stocks of food rations, hygiene kits and bottled water.

62. With the onset of winter, it is critical that the displaced population be provided with appropriate shelter. Since June, 28 camps have opened across Iraq and 10 additional camps are being built to cater for a total of 409,000 individuals, while the vast majority will have to reside with host communities in substandard conditions at collective centres or communal buildings. Winterization funding received thus far has enabled UNHCR to provide more than 450,000 people with basic domestic items and modified shelter. In the Kurdistan Region, 180,000 families have received winter items, including jerrycans, blankets, plastic sheeting and heating stoves. In November, UNHCR launched seven airlifts from Lahore, Pakistan, to reach families in need of winterization assistance.

63. Since November, the World Health Organization (WHO) has procured over $9 million in medicines and supplies and provided 12 fully-equipped mobile clinics to the Government. WHO has also worked with the Government and partners on twinning two Iraqi public health institutes with the Public Health Institute of Finland and the Imperial College, London, accrediting the health facilities that are delivering primary health care based on family practice and introducing a cadre of community health-care workers in selected governorates.

64. During the reporting period, over 1,400 schools across Iraq were used as shelters by internally displaced persons. As part of the UNICEF response, 830 schools were vacated and have been re-opened, as of 1 December, with 337 of the schools having been rehabilitated to minimum standards, permitting the resumption of classes. Over 450 temporary learning spaces have been set up, benefiting over 40,000 students. Educational and recreational materials have been provided to 26,800 students. Recreational activities have benefited over 28,000 internally displaced students. UNICEF and its partners have also provided 13,000 children with psychosocial support.

65. During the reporting period, UNICEF and WHO supported the Iraqi Ministry of Health in the conduct of six national and four subnational polio immunization campaigns, in which over 5.6 million children were immunized. Of that number, some 340,000 internally displaced children were also vaccinated against measles. In addition, UNICEF has provided 13,500 children with nutrition and growth-monitoring interventions.

66. Ensuring adequate Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for All (WASH) support for the large number of internally displaced people has been challenging during the reporting period: 82,000 have been provided with bottled drinking water and have benefited from the installation of 193 water tanks in Kirkuk, Diyala, Najaf, Baghdad, Anbar and Basra governorates; 81,853 have benefited from improved sanitation measures; 207,449 have been reached through hygiene promotion activities; and 37,074 have received hygiene kits through local and international non-governmental organizations and local authorities.

67. During the reporting period, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) supported the Kurdistan Regional Government in providing sustainable

infrastructure in camps for the internally displaced, benefiting around 10,000 individuals. The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), under its "Durable shelter support for internally displaced persons in Iraq" initiative, has installed shelter sites throughout the Kurdistan Region, consisting of a total of 854 prefabricated units, with the United Nations Office for Project Services undertaking the installation of solar streetlights and providing solar lamp kits to each household. In all, at 20 camps, with the support of the United Nations, UNESCO and UNICEF, schools are being built. In addition, WHO is providing clinics and medical equipment and the United Nations Population Fund is establishing reproductive health-care clinics and women's spaces.

68. During the reporting period, more than 20,000 refugees from Kobani/Ayn al-Arab in the Syrian Arab Republic arrived in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq following the opening of the Ibrahim Khalil border crossing between Turkey and Iraq. The majority settled in host communities, with some choosing to reside in pre-existing refugee camps, bringing the total number of refugees to more than 240,000. The average number of new arrivals per day has decreased from an average of 475 in October, to an average of 295 per day during November and 175 in December.

69. In December, WFP expanded its voucher programme, transitioning the 76,000 refugees in the Akre and Darashakran camps from in-kind food distribution to assistance consisting of vouchers valued at $31 per person per month. The transition was widely accepted, since the refugees are now able to purchase fresh produce and other commodities directly from camp shops, based on their families' needs. During the reporting period, WFP and Islamic Relief Worldwide also continued to deliver individual food parcels to the 1,000 Syrian refugees in the al-Obaidi camp in Anbar governorate. UNESCO partnered with local non-governmental organizations to open 10 community learning centres in Erbil and Dohuk to provide literacy and life skills training to vulnerable refugees, and handed over two secondary schools, which will accommodate 1,000 refugees, in the Darashkran and Kwargowsak camps to the Kurdish Ministry of Education.

70. On 18 December, UNHCR and UNDP launched the regional refugee response and resilience plan for Syrian refugees hosted by Iraq, in an effort to address both immediate humanitarian needs, as well as to provide medium- to longer-term resilience plans to reduce dependence on external aid over time. The combined requirements of the plan totalled $426 million.

71. On 15 December, my Special Representative and Deputy Special Representative co-chaired a round-table meeting, involving key Government ministers and officials, to discuss appropriate policy responses to address key development challenges in Iraq. These challenges and recommended responses were articulated in a series of policy briefs drafted by the United Nations, for the new Government, covering fiscal and economic issues, decentralization, social protection, public sector modernization, durable solutions for the displaced population, human rights, hydrocarbon revenue management and recovery and reconstruction in liberated areas.

72. On 17 December, UNDP and the Government of Iraq jointly launched the national "Human Development Report 2014", which focused on youth, detailing the challenges they face and highlighting the importance of providing them with education and employment opportunities.

F. Security and operational issues

73. United Nations operations in Iraq are ongoing. A suicide attack using a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device that deliberately targeted a UNAMI convoy in Baghdad on 16 November, with the clear intention of harming United Nations personnel, has not deterred the Mission from carrying out its mandate. The Organization resolutely continues its operations in Iraq while maintaining the security of its personnel among its highest priorities. The Baghdad office and field offices continue to monitor security closely and they have taken requisite mitigation measures accordingly. The General Assembly, in its resolution 69/264, approved a reduction of $120 million in the budgets for special political missions for the biennium 2016-2017. To be able to meet these reductions, there is a need to review the mandates of special political missions, including that of UNAMI. I intend to carry out an assessment and to present my findings before the end of the Mission's mandate on 31 July 2015.

IV. Observations

74. Despite the gains made by the Iraqi armed forces during the reporting period, ISIL's capability for terror and for violations of the norms of humanity continues to pose a grave threat to Iraq and to the broader region. I am pleased that the regional and international community has rallied to Iraq's defence in strength. There must be no easing of these efforts to stand by Iraq during this most serious security and humanitarian challenge. I urge the international community to continue to support Iraq's requests for security, humanitarian and reconstruction support, including in those areas liberated from ISIL.

75. I am heartened by the preliminary yet significant steps that the new Government of Iraq has embarked upon under its ministerial programme to resolve longstanding issues of concern to all components of Iraqi society. A military solution to the threat posed by ISIL will have to be complemented by good governance and national reconciliation. The grievances and aspirations of the different components will have to be addressed in an inclusive manner, in conformity with the Constitution. All communities should be able to again feel safe and heard.

76. I welcome the political consensus reached within the Council of Representatives to adopt Iraq's federal budget for 2015, a significant achievement that will enable the Government to develop sustainable fiscal policies, promote economic growth and encourage foreign investment. I am encouraged that the budget reflects the Government's political commitments to restore security, alleviate poverty, promote national reconciliation, provide humanitarian relief to displaced persons and rebuild areas in Iraq affected by the ongoing conflict and military operations. The implementation of the budget will provide much needed relief to Iraqis affected by the ongoing conflict.

77. I am similarly encouraged by the Government's emphasis on national dialogue to engage disenfranchised communities and regain their trust. I reiterate the readiness of the United Nations to extend its full support for all efforts towards national reconciliation and social cohesion. I also urge Iraqi stakeholders to forge consensus without delay on the formation of a national guard.

78. I urge countries in the region and the international community to extend their full support and assistance to the efforts of the Government of Iraq for national reconciliation, the strengthening of civilian institutions, and the re-establishment of security and stability. I laud the efforts of the Iraqi leadership to strengthen ties with the region and the high-level visits made to countries in the region. I am greatly encouraged by their response to Iraq's requests for support and urge them to continue to work together towards a coherent approach to counter the threat posed by ISIL.

79. I commend the leadership of the Government of Iraq and the Kurdistan Regional Government for their commitment to dialogue and spirit of unity in concluding the important agreement signed on 2 December, which serves the interest of all Iraqis. I urge both sides to fully implement the agreement, including proceeding with the oil exports from the Kurdistan Region and Kirkuk through the State Oil Marketing Organization, as well as the disbursement of the Kurdistan Region allocation of the federal budget. I further welcome the commitment of the Government of Iraq to support the Peshmerga through the payment of salaries and provision of weaponry. I call upon both sides to seize the momentum and swiftly move towards a comprehensive, fair and constitutional solution to all outstanding issues, including the enactment of oil and gas, and revenue-sharing legislation, and to further strengthen their cooperation and coordination in the joint fight against ISIL. The United Nations stands ready to continue to provide its good offices.

80. Respect for the rule of law and human rights are integral to a plural and democratic society, which includes respect for the rights of persons subject to the criminal justice system. In this regard, I am encouraged by the Ministerial decree requiring security forces and those responsible for the administration of justice to respect due process by ensuring that any person detained is charged within the period stipulated by law and is transferred to facilities under the authority of the Ministry of Justice. I encourage the Government to consider further reforms of the criminal justice system and to ensure full respect for due process and fair trial standards, in compliance with Iraq's international obligations. Effective, socially inclusive policies cannot succeed without addressing the issue of accountability for past and ongoing human rights violations in a manner that supports the rule of law and promotes respect for human rights.

81. I am appalled by reports of atrocities committed by ISIL, which include beheadings, the enslavement of women, the destruction of religious heritage and blatant disrespect of human rights, human dignity and human life, some of which may constitute crimes against humanity. I welcome the deployment of the special investigation team by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on ISIL and associated armed groups. I encourage witnesses and those in possession of relevant knowledge to come forward to give information and evidence to the team in its very important mission.

82. I welcome the establishment of the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Centre. Over the past months, the humanitarian crisis in Iraq has grown exponentially. Iraq has a staggering population of 5.2 million people who are in need of humanitarian assistance, turning Iraq into one of the United Nations five global "level 3" humanitarian emergencies. The United Nations and the Government of Iraq have launched a joint appeal to raise some $2.2 billion to cover the provision of humanitarian assistance and protection for 5.2 million people across Iraq until

December 2015. With more than $600 million generously contributed to date by the donor community, including $500 million from Saudi Arabia, an additional $1.6 billion is still urgently needed. I urge Member States to continue their support.

83. I remain very concerned about the continued lack of a status-of-mission agreement for UNAMI. I urge the Government of Iraq to intensify its cooperation with the United Nations in finalizing the agreement without any further delay. I also seek the support of the Security Council in encouraging the Government to ensure the earliest possible resolution of this long-standing issue.

84. Finally, I would like to thank my Special Representative, Nickolay Mladenov, and the women and men of the United Nations in Iraq for their perseverance and often courageous efforts. They will continue to support and assist the Government and all the people of Iraq. I would like to express my gratitude to my former Deputy Special Representative for Development and Humanitarian Affairs, Jacqueline Badcock, who completed her tenure on 31 December, for her leadership in addressing the humanitarian and development needs in Iraq. I trust that international partners and Iraq's neighbours will continue to support my Special Representative and UNAMI in the implementation of their mandate.

United Nations A/69/758–S/2015/83

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General Assembly
Sixty-ninth session
Agenda item 107
Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Seventieth year

Identical letters dated 2 February 2015 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On the morning of Sunday, 1 February 2015, during rush hour, Damascus was again hit by a cowardly terrorist attack on innocent civilians. Terrorists used a high-explosive device to target a civilian bus in the Kalasah area, near the crowded Hamidiyah market. According to a preliminary count, six civilians were killed and 24 others, including children, were wounded. There was also significant damage to property. A second device was defused by the engineering squad.

This was one of a series of similar terrorist attacks on civilians that have affected most governorates in the country over the last four years. Missiles, mortars, hellfire cannons and various explosives have all been used. The perpetrators are armed terrorist groups in the pay of Governments in the region and beyond, such as Saudi Arabia and Qatar. The impact on the city of Aleppo has been particularly severe. On a daily basis, the groups have plundered and destroyed the city's quarters and heritage sites and murdered civilian men, women and children. The following are but a few examples among many. On 28 January 2015, the armed terrorist groups bombarded the Ashrafiyah and Khalidiyah quarters with mortars and hellfire cannons, killing two civilians and injuring 32 others. On 30 January 2015, the groups blew up a tunnel that they had dug under the eighth-century Umayyad Mosque of Aleppo, causing part of the eastern wall to collapse. Before that, terrorists belonging to the so-called Nusrah Front had bombed the minaret and southern door of the mosque on 24 April 2014, bombed the southern wall in February 2013, and looted and burned the contents in October 2012. The *takfirist* organizations' repeated acts of terrorism against innocent civilians and places of worship highlight their obscurantist Wahhabi ideology, which is opposed to human civilization.

The terrorist bombing of one of the oldest and most authentic markets in Damascus, the indiscriminate shelling of Aleppo and the slaughter of two Japanese civilians by Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) are part of an inhumane

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spate of vandalism, killings, beheadings and cannibalism that have been perpetrated since the outset of the crisis in Syria by such armed terrorist groups as ISIL, the Nusrah Front, the Free Army, the Army of Islam and other Al-Qaida satellites.

The Syrian Arab Republic condemns all forms of terrorism in the strongest possible terms. It again calls on the Security Council and the Secretary-General of the United Nations to denounce these terrorist crimes. It urges them to take the necessary action to hold to account the perpetrators and the States and forces within the region and beyond that openly flaunt their support for armed terrorist groups. Syria reiterates its call on the Security Council to enforce its own counter-terrorism resolutions, particularly resolution 2170 (2014), by doing what it takes to prevent those States from providing such support. In order to achieve that objective, the States of the world must cooperate and coordinate with the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic in its war on terror.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic stresses that such acts of terrorism will not dissuade it or weaken its resolve to combat terrorism, terrorist groups and mercenaries. At the same time, Syria will pursue its efforts to achieve national reconciliation and reach a political solution to the crisis in Syria on the basis of dialogue among Syrians under Syrian leadership.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 107, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Haydar **Ali Ahmad**
Counsellor
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

United Nations A/69/753–S/2015/84

General Assembly
Security Council

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2 February 2015

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General Assembly
Sixty-ninth session
Agenda item 68
Promotion and protection of human rights

Security Council
Seventieth session

Identical letters dated 2 February 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to attach herewith a letter dated 2 February 2015 addressed to you from Mr. Ri Su Yong, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (see annex).

An identical letter from Mr. Ri Su Yong, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, has been sent to Mr. Sam Kahamba Kutesa, President of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 68, and of the Security Council as soon as possible.

(*Signed*) **Ja** Song Nam
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 2 February 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly

I present my compliments to you, and write this letter in reference to the revelation of the falsehood behind the "Report of the commission of inquiry on human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea" which became the basis of the "Human rights resolution" against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea adopted at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

The "Report of the commission of inquiry" was based on "testimonies" by so-called "defectors from the north", and the "testimony" given by the "defector from the north", Sin Tong Hyok, was the core of those "testimonies".

Recently, Sin Tong Hyok confessed before the international community that his "testimony" was a fabrication

This means that the basis for the "Human rights resolution" on our country adopted at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly has collapsed and proves the utterly unjust nature of the act of the United States and other hostile forces in bringing Sin Tong Hyok and his like into the United Nations arena, organizing the anti-Democratic People's Republic of Korea "hearing" and railroading the "Human rights resolution."

I would like to remind you of the letters already sent by our Permanent Representatives in New York and in Geneva to you, the President of the General Assembly, the President of the Security Council and the President of the Human Rights Committee as regards Sin Tong Hyok's admission of giving false "testimony."

Those who cooked up the fraudulent document, including the former Chairman of the "commission of inquiry" on the human rights situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, are spreading the sophism that the "Report of the commission of inquiry on human rights" against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is based on the "testimonies" of hundreds of "defectors from the north" and Sin Tong Hyok's is only a part of them.

If they manage to present the list of that hundreds of "testifiers" they claim to have interviewed, we are ready to reveal to the whole world the true identities of each and every one of them and the crimes committed and the lies told by them one by one.

In such a case, it will be more evident that the United Nations arena, where the impartiality and objectivity are the principles of its activities, has been misused for the anti-Democratic People's Republic of Korea "human rights" racket, and this will result in deeply undermining the confidence that the United Nations enjoys.

I hope you will direct your kind attention to the following matters;

First, the anti-Democratic People's Republic of Korea "Human rights resolution" of the United Nations at issue was made up based on falsehood from A to Z.

Second, the initiators of the "resolution" should be held accountable for making the countries that supported the "resolution" fall for the lies.

To that end, I would like to propose the following to you Mr. Secretary-General with due courtesy.

1. Since the United Nations arena was reduced to a theatre of the anti-Democratic People's Republic of Korea "human rights" racket, I hope you will engage in correcting the situation and, in the immediate future, let all Member States of the United Nations know that the "resolution" adopted at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly is an unlawful one, falsely brought up and adopted based on fabricated information, and take due measures to revoke the "resolution".

2. The initiators of the "resolution", including the European Union and Japan, have colluded to forcibly adopt the "resolution" by concocting frauds and falsehoods from the beginning and they have not interviewed even a single citizen of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea while doing so. I hope you will urge them to admit this fact by themselves and apologize for it to the international community.

They have ignored our proposal for talks and framed up the "resolution" based on lies and fabrications. This is a mockery of and an insult to the United Nations.

If the "resolution" framed up by the European Union and Japan with information that was fully proven to be false before the international community is withdrawn, we are willing to actively engage in talks and cooperation in the field of human rights.

I wish you good health and success in your responsible work.

(*Signed*) **Ri** Su Yong
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Democratic People's Republic of Korea